

In the Claims

Please amend claim 18 as follows:

1-17. (cancelled)

18. (Currently amended) A device for determining the presence of a nucleic acid in a sample comprising
an instrument for temperature cycling for analysis of real-time amplification of the nucleic acid,

a fluorimeter for detecting fluorescence during the amplification of the nucleic acid, the fluorescence obtained from a fluorescent entity capable of providing a signal related to the quantity of the nucleic acid, and

a processor ~~means for performing analysis routines, processing data during the amplification wherein the processor is programmed i.) to initiate analysis algorithms prior to completion of temperature cycling, ii.) to use the algorithms to obtain, the processor obtaining~~ a score from each of a plurality of tests using fluorescence values measured by the fluorimeter to generate the scores, and iii.) to use the scores to ascertain~~the processor ascertaining from the scores~~ whether the nucleic acid is present in the sample.

19. (Original) The device of claim 18 wherein the plurality of tests comprise a Confidence Interval Test and a Signal-to-Noise Ratio Test.

20. (Original) The device of claim 19 wherein the plurality of tests further comprise a Channel Consistency Test and an Efficiency Test.

21. (Original) The device of claim 20 wherein the plurality of tests further comprise a Function Ordering Test, a Maximum to Baseline Comparison Test, and a Last Rise Test.

22. (Original) The device of claim 18 wherein the instrument is configured for rapid thermal cycling.

23. (Original) The device of claim 22 wherein the instrument employs capillary tubes and hot air control.

24. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 18 provided in a portable container for field use.